



# DOMESTIC COLLECTION DIVISION

## Foreign Intelligence Information Report

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REPORT CLASS

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

USSR

DATE DISTR.

24 January 1983

SUBJECT

1. Use of Prison Labor in Construction of Dimitrovgrad Automotive Accessory Works Bearings Plant and Plating Facility
2. Location of Prison Near Dimitrovgrad

DOI

1976 - 1979

REFERENCES

SOURCE

SUMMARY: Forced labor was utilized in the construction of the factory building for the Dimitrovgrad Automotive Accessory Works (DAAZ) Bearings Plant during 1976 and for a DAAZ plant facility in 1978 or 1979. About 100 prisoners were employed as construction workers on the DAAZ Bearings Plant at one point during October 1976. Only male prisoners were utilized and the work compound was enclosed by a fence with watch towers. There were armed guards and guard dogs to provide security while the prisoners were in the work compound. There is a prison facility about 5-8 kilometers outside Dimitrovgrad, located near the Moscow-Dimitrovgrad main railroad line.

TEXT:

1. Prison labor was employed in construction of the factory for the Dimitrovgrad Automotive Accessory Works (DAAZ) Bearings Plant in 1976 and it was common knowledge among Soviet workers at DAAZ that prison labor was routinely used for construction enterprises in the Dimitrovgrad area. There were about 100 prisoners employed on the 200-man work force involved in basic building construction of the DAAZ Bearings Plant during October 1976. Prisoners were used for cement,

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carpentry, welding and other types of construction crafts, and were involved in just about all types of work related to the initial stages of construction of a building. Many of the prison laborers dug ditches for piping. There were no women among the prison laborers.

2. The DAAZ Bearings Plant construction site had a fence around it and access was limited to a main gate where armed guards were posted. Uniformed guards with black patches on their shoulders patrolled the perimeter with the aid of guard dogs. There were guard watch towers along the fence perimeter. Western on-site engineers assumed the guard personnel in charge of the prisoners to be engineering troops, as many military personnel with black shoulder patches were seen working on construction projects in the Dimitrovgrad area.

3. The prisoners were brought to the work site each morning and then were mustered for return to their prison facility at the end of each working day. They always were at the work site prior to the start of the normal working day and worked until 1700 hours or later. On some occasions, the prisoner count at the end of the work day would not be completed until after 1800 hours.

4. The prisoners wore quilted jackets and pants, referred to by Westerners as Siberian jackets and pants, which all looked alike and thus had the appearance of being uniforms. There were unspecified personnel supervising the prisoner work details. It was hard to guess whether these supervisors were guards, trustees or civil construction foremen, as they wore no weapons or identifiable markings on their clothing. It was not possible for Western contractors to determine how the prisoners were treated, as the compound was kept locked while the prisoners were inside. If it was necessary for a Western contractor to inspect an area in which there was prison labor employed, he was escorted in and out of the area and no contact was allowed with the prisoners. No female DAAZ employees were allowed inside the compound while there were prison laborers present.

[REDACTED]

5. By Soviet construction standards, the work performed by prison laborers at the DAAZ Bearings Plant was quite good. There were no serious defects in workmanship and Western on-site engineers at the DAAZ Bearings Plant were left with the impression that the prisoners had received some training for the work they were doing. The basic construction phase at the DAAZ site had been completed by April 1977, by which time prison laborers were no longer in evidence at the site.

[REDACTED]

6. Although DAAZ officials made no mention of the location from which prison labor was obtained for the DAAZ construction sites, there was a prison facility about 5-8 kilometers from central Dimitrovgrad. While proceeding on the line from Moscow to Dimitrovgrad, the prison was visible on the left side of the tracks at a distance of no more than 100 meters from the tracks. The side facing the tracks was about 100 meters long and consisted of a high concrete wall with guard towers along the wall. The prison was located in an open area with only small rural type buildings in the vicinity. Soviet train passengers identified the building as a prison to Western passengers on the train in 1976.

7. According to a [REDACTED] on-site engineer [REDACTED] involved in construction of a plating facility at DAAZ in 1978 or 1979, prison labor was used during the building construction phase of this part of the DAAZ complex as well. The [REDACTED] engineer complained that he was not allowed access to the site until after 1700 hours in the evening, and thus he had to do all of his inspection work in the evening. The guards would not let him inside the fenced work area, for fear that the prisoners might take him hostage.

8. There was no firm basis for determining whether or not the prisoners were political prisoners or common criminals. Western on-site personnel at DAAZ had the impression that they were criminals, but this was based strictly on their perception that much of the adult population in Dimitrovgrad consisted of young, street-wise men involved in black market activity and who were perceived as being former prisoners. Some Western on-site engineers at DAAZ got the impression from discussions with DAAZ workers and from observations while walking the streets of Dimitrovgrad that there were large numbers of prisoners and former prisoners living in the city and that prisoners were used on many construction projects. [REDACTED] Comment: Source was unable to relate any specific recollections about the use of prison labor in Dimitrovgrad, beyond the two cases cited above.)

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REPORT CLASS [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: USSR

DATE DISTR. 1 April 1983

SUBJ:

1. [REDACTED]
2. Use of Forced Labor on the Soviet Siberian Gas Pipeline

DOI: APRIL 1982-MARCH 1983

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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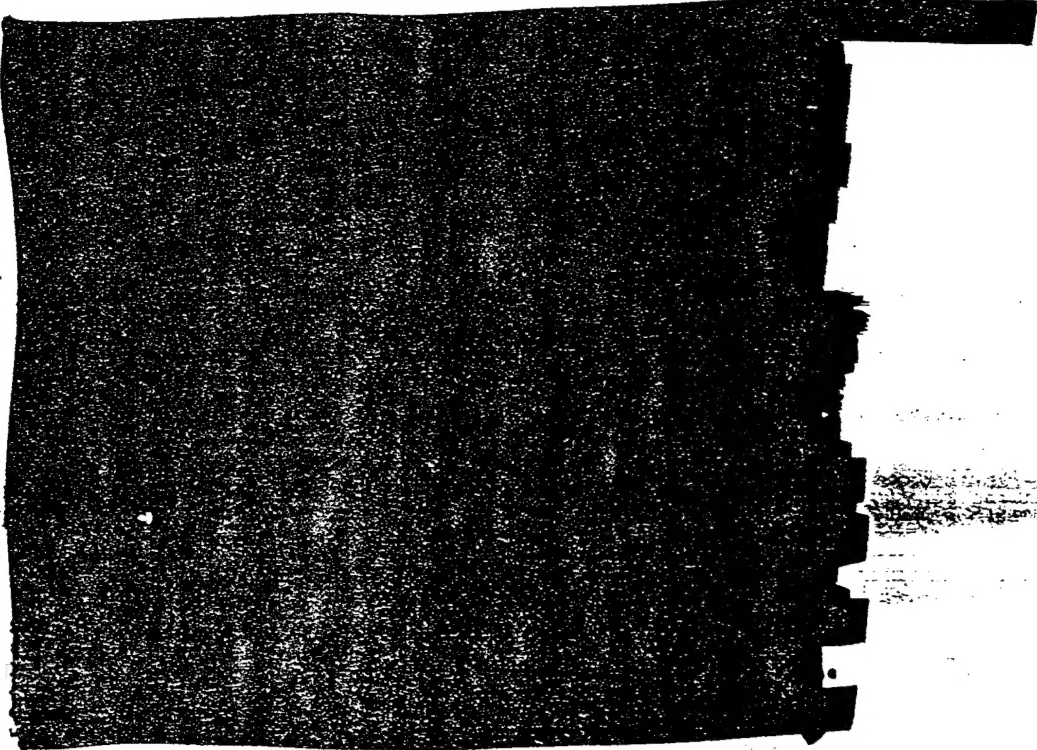


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9. On pipeline projects, morale was low because of poor living conditions. There were also broad-scale problems with alcoholism, and workers frequently broke the doors, windows, and furniture in their quarters, making their living conditions worse and leading, in turn, to further drinking. Because of alcoholism, accidents were frequent during operation of machinery and lifting of heavy items. There was an insufficient amount of free manpower (as opposed to forced labor), despite high wages and incentives. Long term free labor was not attracted to work on the pipeline because it meant losing



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residential permits (propiska) at home. Conversely, short term labor (1-4 months) had better incentives. These laborers were paid a percentage of their home salaries, paid per diem, and cold weather extra wage. However, short term workers tended to be very young and minimally skilled and usually refused to do any of the dirty work chores such as working up to the waist in snow. There was a shortage of technical equipment, and available equipment always suffered from a shortage of fuel. Short term free labor was solicited by country-wide campaigns with the sort of agitprop activity that used to be associated with the old Virgin Lands campaign under Khrushchev. Employers were forced to give up workers for a few months while continuing to pay out portions of their salaries. Each enterprise was given a quota of volunteers. Housing as high as 5-6 stories was erected for these brigades of volunteers, and occasionally railroad cars were used for housing. Mess halls were also built. Almost all the long-term labor was local, and these workers were allowed to live at home. Neither short-term labor nor locals could be made to do large amounts of the dirty work, hence, prison labor was not only used but indispensable.

10. Ivdel was at the center of a radius of 300 km of concentration camps, operated by the Directorate M-240 of the MVD, under the command of Colonel Mikhail Mikhailovich ((Pushkin)). The directorate was also known as Ivdel "Spetsles" since normally all of the prisoners were engaged in lumbering. Four camps, totalling 2,500 prisoners, were close to the town of Ivdel. The four camps were called ITK Number 4, 1/1, 1/2, and 1/3. These were strict regime camps. A relaxed regime camp, from which prisoners could go to work unguarded, was Settlement Colony Number 8, located in Tokhta, about 100 km away. Settlement prisoners worked on compressor stations under the direction of free managers, who signed for each prisoner every day that the prisoner worked.

11. MVD Directorate M-240 had an estimated 20,000 prisoners entirely devoted to lumbering, except for labor provided for the pipeline. It was only one of dozens of similar directorates throughout the Urals. The headquarters for the administration of the Urals camps was in Sverdovsk. All of these camps were categorized by three types: strengthened regime (usilennyi rezhim), strict (strogiy) regime, and settlement colonies. The strengthened and strict regime camps were the "hells". In settlement colonies, prisoners lived in camps but had considerable freedom to go to work without guards, to visit nearby towns, and have their families there. These were the "heavens" of the prison system although conditions at the settlement houses were poor. There were no political prisoners officially in the Urals camps, because all

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[REDACTED]

the inmates received their sentences under criminal articles of the legal code. (Comment: However, only about 20 percent of the prisoners were real criminals; the rest were either dissidents of one sort or another or basically decent people unlucky enough to be caught for the sort of illegal activity indulged in by the whole country, such as theft of socialist property, dealings "on the left," etc.) Some effort was made to identify specialized skills among the prison laborers. Approximately 20 specialists were found among the prisoners for the Ivdel compressor station project. While they could not occupy a position higher than that of foreman (prorab), they could leave their camps with passes and without guards, could take part in meetings, and were used as much as possible for the specialties. (Comment: Source did not elaborate on whether similar privileges existed for forced labor on the pipeline.)

12. The base pay for wage workers on the gas pipeline was based on a classification system from one to seven, with seven being the highest paid. To the base pay which is somewhat higher in the Urals, 1.2 percent was added for cold weather working. In addition, bonuses were sometimes, but not always, received for fulfillment or overfulfillment of plan, and special clothing was issued. However, all of this was not enough to attract sufficient numbers of long term workers. The one to four month "volunteers" received all of the above plus 2.60 rubles per diem and 30-50 percent of the pay in their regular home enterprise. Thus a skilled worker of the seventh class might earn the following: local resident base pay, 220 rubles per month, cold weather pay, 26 rubles per month, totalling 246 rubles per month. With the 20-25 percent bonuses for plan, if paid, he would make an additional 48-62 rubles per month for a total of 294 to 308 rubles. Short-term volunteers from distant locations would be typically paid their home enterprise pay of 100 rubles per month, local base pay of 220 rubles per month, cold weather pay of 26 rubles and per diem of 40 rubles. If paid a bonus, short-termers could make a total of 474 to 488 rubles per month. (Comment: For a four-months' stay, this is quite a nice nest egg by Soviet standards; however, in practice, much of the salaries went to alcohol consumption. Supervisory personnel, engineers, master specialists, and foremen usually made 400 rubles per month plus the bonus if paid. It would have been impossible to do all of the necessary dirty and unpleasant auxiliary work by wage labor without offering about 15 times more than the available incentives. There was no civil defense training at the Ivdel project.)

13. [REDACTED]

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